

RESOLUTION NO. 13-140

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are pleased to honor Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., an iconic public servant and President Pro Tempore of the Huntsville City Council and District One Representative during Black History Month, 2013. On September 13, 1988, Dr. Showers was the first African American elected to the Huntsville, Alabama City Council since reconstruction in 1907, at which time Huntsville had Black City Aldermen. Following a four-year battle of a suit filed by State Representative Dr. George W. Grayson, the first Black legislator in North Alabama since the Reconstruction, a five-district plan was approved for the City of Huntsville with District One as the predominantly Black district; and,

WHEREAS, in 1988, Dr. Showers and five other candidates, four Blacks and two Whites, qualified to run in District 1. On August 23, 1988 in a citywide election, Dr. Showers led the ticket for District 1, but did not have a clear majority, which necessitated a run-off with Dr. Jorge Kuzmic. In the run-off, Dr. Showers received 59% of the votes cast. After being sworn into office on October 3, 1988, by State Supreme Court Justice C.C. "Bo" Torbert, Dr. Showers officially began his four-year tenure on the Huntsville City Council. On August 28, 2012, Dr. Showers was reelected to a seventh term on the Huntsville City Council; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Showers has a long list of accomplishments in public service to his credit, some of which include: President Pro Tem, Huntsville City Council, 2001-04 and 2008-13; past Third Presiding Officer, Huntsville City Council; CMO, Certified Municipal Official, State of Alabama; Member, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG); past Board Appointment Representative, Huntsville City Council; past Member, City of Huntsville Insurance Committee; past Chairman, City of Huntsville Finance Committee; past Vice President, Finance Committee, City of Huntsville; past Member, Advisory on Accessibility, City of Huntsville; past Member, Local Emergency Planning Commission, City of Huntsville; past Member, Planning Commission, City of Huntsville; past Member, Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPO), City of Huntsville; past Member, Clean Community Committee, City of Huntsville; past Member, Historical Preservation Authority; past Member, Zoning Subcommittee; past Member, Local Emergency Planning Committee; past Member-Handicapped Enforcement Committee; elected Vice President of ABC/LEO (Alabama Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials); elected At-Large Board of Directors NBC/LEO (National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials); past Financial Secretary, Mud Creek North Alabama Association; Member, National Education Association; Member, Alabama Education Association; Member, Huntsville Education Association; Member, Legislative Contact Team, U.S. Fifth Congressional District; past Member, Community Action Agency (CAP); Member, 1998 Leadership Alabama Class and Leadership Huntsville/Madison County class; Member, Huntsville Alumni Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Past Director, Guide Rights, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Life Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Director, Senior Kappas, Southern Province; and Life Member, NAACP; and,

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WHEREAS, Dr. Showers attends numerous community functions as a volunteer; participates in neighborhood cleanups in District One and throughout the city; school May Day activities, Back to School parades; serves as judge in various school and community activities; works with Scout leaders and public housing; attend round ups where asked to talk to boys about leadership; encourages parents to become leaders; presents certificates and awards to honorees. He received the Presidential Citation as a distinguished Alumni of Alabama A&M University by the National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education; 1997 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award presented at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Breakfast sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; NAACP Award of Excellence presented at the 1998 NAACP Life Membership Banquet; Annual Greater Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship Award in 2002; overall winner for politics by the Twenty Distinguished Men of Huntsville in 1993; Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. Recreation Center named in his honor; Distinguished Service Award for twenty years of service presented at the 2009 Annual League of Municipalities Convention held in Montgomery, Alabama; Charter Trustee at Selma University, Selma, Alabama; and former member of the Trustee Board and Chairman of the Academic Affairs Sub-committee at Alabama A&M University, Normal, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Showers is a member of the Northeast State Convention; past president emeritus of the Northeast Laymen's Movement; President of the Alabama State Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.; and the First Vice-President of the National Baptist Laymen's Movement Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. He is an active member of the Union Chapel M.B. Church where Reverend Dr. O. Wendell Davis is the pastor. He is a member of the Board of Deacons and serves as Sunday School Teacher in the Senior Adult Department. Dr. Showers officially retired on June 30, 2005 from the Huntsville City School System as a Career Education Teacher at the Huntsville Center for Technology; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Showers, Sr., is a native of Baldwin County (Lillian, Alabama) and graduate of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Education. He also received the Master of Science degree in Trade and Industrial Education at Alabama A&M University, and completed further studies at Auburn University in Adult and Continuing Education. He is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humanities, 1998. Dr. Showers has a long and distinguished record of community service during his 41 years as a resident of Huntsville. He is the son of the late Mr. Charlie Showers and Mrs. Mary E. Showers. He is the eldest of four sons, Robert, Ernest and Johnny, all deceased. He and his wife Bettye Ann have five children: Richard, Jr., Felicia, Jenise, Gwen and Wanda. His favorite Bible text is: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," I Corinthians 15:58.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express special thanks and salute Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., Huntsville City Councilman representing District 1 for his dedicated service and untiring effort to make Huntsville a better community. It is a pleasure to honor him during Black History Month, February 2013, acknowledging his being the first African American elected to serve on the Huntsville, Alabama City Council and extend best wishes for his continued success.

ADOPTED this the 28th day of February, 2013.

President of the City Council
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 28th day of February, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama